

### REMARKS

The last Office Action repeats the rejection of Claims 2-4, 8, and 14-16 as unpatentable over *Underdahl* in view of *WordPerfect V6.1*. Responding to the Applicant's arguments filed July 23, 2004, the Examiner asserts that "the features upon which Applicant relies (i.e., "special-shaped cursor") are not recited in the rejected claim". The Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's assertion and reiterates that the applied art fails to teach the combination of method steps recited in Claims 2 et al.

The paragraph bridging pages 10 and 11 of the Applicants' previous remarks cite a passage from the specification, and that passage does indeed mention a special-shaped cursor. However, the Applicants do *not* rely on any particular cursor shape for the patentability of Claim 2 over the applied art. (Claim 5 does, however, add the limitation of cursor shape.) Rather, the Applicants cited page 13, line 8 of their specification to emphasize a method step included in Claim 2, but lacking in the applied art. That step is determining the plurality of formatting characteristics of the cell in the spreadsheet in response to selecting the cell containing those formatting characteristics. Lines 8-14 of page 3 make clear that the user may select one or more cells with the cursor — irrespective of cursor shape— either after or before clicking the Choose Format button 420 (Fig. 4), and the attributes of the selected cell(s) will be determined and applied to all tabs of the format cells dialog.

Please see page 20, lines 12-25, for additional disclosure of the "Choose Formal from Cell" limitation found in the method of Claims 2 et al.

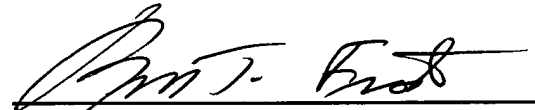
*Underdahl* simply does not disclose or teach determining formatting characteristics of a spreadsheet cell in response to the selection of a cell containing those formatting characteristics. Page 174 of *Underdahl* shows an Edit/Find/Replace dialog box, described by *Underdahl* as "much like the search-and-replace feature in most word processors". The user must first specify the block to search, using *cell references* as shown in Fig. 5.32 of *Underdahl*, and then enter text strings in the "Find" and "Replace" text boxes. The user next clicks either Replace or Replace All, thereby doing a more-or-less conventional find and replace operation within the block of cells entered in the Find/Replace box.

*Underdahl* thus fails to teach or suggest the last step in the combination of Claim 1, namely, determining the formatting characteristics of the cell in response to selecting the cell containing those formatting characteristics. The Applicants' specification makes clear that they use "selection of the cell" in the common meaning of that term, namely, using a cursor (of whatever shape) to select one or more cells; see page 11, lines 3-4 of the specification. *Underdahl*, in contrast, requires the user to choose the Find/Replace dialog box, type in a desired cell reference in the Block(s) window of that box, having first determined those cell references, and then enter the search string and the replacement string into the respective Find and Replace windows. The Applicants' method of Claim 2 allows determining formatting characteristics of a cell simply by selection of the cell containing those formatting characteristics. The person of ordinary skill cannot find any suggestion of that novel step in *Underdahl* or *WordPerfect*. Accordingly, Claims 2 et al define a patentable method over that art.

The foregoing is submitted as a complete response to the Office Action identified above. The Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to issue a Notice of Allowance for this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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